## BRIEF MENTION

THE COLLECTED POEMS OF WILFRED OWEN. Edited with an Introduction and Notes by C. Day Lewis and with a Memoir by Edmund Blunden. Norfolk, Conn.: New Directions, 1964. 191 pp. \$4.75.

This volume is very nearly a model of how to present the work of a poet. A careful text, well annotated, and an understanding introduction give the reader an edition which many a poet might well envy. Edmund Blunden's memoir is reprinted from the 1931 edition of Owen's poems. Benjamin Britten's use of Owen texts in his "War Requiem" has stimulated fresh interest in Owen. This edition will not only satisfy those who have thus become attracted to Owen but will create new interest by its own excellence.

A BACKWARD GLANCE. By Edith Wharton. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1964. xxvii, 385 pp. \$6.95.

In a day when most reprints are appearing in paperback editions, it is a pleasure to encounter this beautifully printed and nicely bound reissue of Edith Wharton's autobiography, complete with a selection of appropriate illustrations and endpapers showing the New York of her day. A Backward Glance is interesting above most autobiographies since it not only tells us of Mrs. Wharton's life and gives pictures of her literary contemporaries—notably Henry James, but also tells (in such chapters as "The Secret Garden") a great deal about the manner and purpose of her writing. A penetrating introduction by Louis Auchincloss adds to the value of this new edition.

THE COMPLETE STORIES & SKETCHES OF STEPHEN CRANE. Edited by Thomas A. Gullason. Garden City: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1963. 790 pp. \$5.95.

All students of Stephen Crane will henceforth be greatly indebted to Mr. Gullason and his publishers, not only for making available for the first time in a single volume all 112 of Crane's short stories and sketches, but especially for printing them in chronological order so that a study of Crane's development as a prose writer may now be seriously undertaken.

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